

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sue Kalman on 8/28/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 9 and 10; and amend claim 1 as follows:

Claim 1. A low dead volume extraction column comprising:

- i) a column body having an open upper end for attachment to a pump, an open lower end for passing fluid into and out of the column body, and an open channel between the upper and lower end of the column body, wherein the column body comprises a pipette tip;
- ii) a bottom frit bonded to and extending across the open channel, the bottom frit having a pore volume;
- iii) a top frit bonded to and extending across the open channel between the bottom frit and the open upper end of the column body, the top frit having a low pore volume, wherein the top frit and bottom frit are less than 350 microns thick,
- iv) wherein the bottom frit is a membrane screen and the top frit is optionally a membrane screen and wherein the top frit or the bottom frit is comprised of nylon, polyester, polyamide, polycarbonate, cellulose, polyethylene, nitrocellulose, cellulose

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acetate, or polypropylene, and wherein the top frit, bottom frit, and channel surface define an extraction media chamber; and

v) a bed of extraction media positioned inside the extraction media chamber.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-8, 12-18, and 20-22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record (Tuvim) fails to teach or fairly suggest a membrane screen made of nylon, polyester, polyamide, polycarbonate, cellulose, polyethylene, nitrocellulose, cellulose acetate, or polypropylene, and having a thickness of less than 350 microns in combination with the remaining features and elements of the claimed invention. While Tuvim discloses having a filter or frit element made of stainless steel and fluorocarbon polymers and having a thickness of 90-140 microns, Tuvim does not teach or fairly suggest having a membrane screen made of, for example, nylon with a thickness of less than 350 microns in combination with the remaining features and elements of the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Fisk et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LORE RAMILLANO whose telephone number is (571) 272-7420. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jill Warden/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797

Lore Ramillano
Examiner
Art Unit 1797